

hastily withdrew my declination, saying with entire sincerity that I was a very great admirer of the French soldiers; and so off I went and saw a sham battle.

I was in the usual dreadful dress of the "visiting statesman," with frock coat and top hat; but when the colonel of the cavalry regiment asked me if I would not ride I said I would if they gave me a pair of leggings, having first hastily consulted Jusserand to find if there would be objection. For reasons which I never quite clearly understood, they were all, officers and men, very much pleased at my riding, and a couple of days later I received a letter written by the senior non-commissioned officer on behalf of the enlisted men of the squadron to which the horse belonged, thanking me and saying they would always take special care of the horse and commemorate in their company records the fact that I had ridden it. I wrote them back telling them that when I got back home I would send them a photograph of myself in my uniform as colonel of the cavalry regiment with which I had served in Cuba; and this I accordingly did, and they hung it in their caserne. I was a good deal struck by the fact that this was done by the enlisted men, as I found out, without consultation with their officers. It was the kind of thing that our own enlisted men would have done; the kind of thing that the men of the battleship *Louisiana* did when Mrs. Roosevelt and I went down to Panama, when after our return the Jackies, purely on their own initiative, subscribed a

fund with which
to have Tiffany make a huge loving cup, which
they then
sent to Mrs. Roosevelt by a deputation of four
of their
number. All bursting with pride and so clean
that they
looked as if they had been holy-stoned.

From Paris I went to Brussels, where we
were only able
to stay twenty-four hours. I made an
address at the
Brussels Exposition, the king presiding over
the meeting.
The American Minister had made a point of my
accepting
the invitation to make this address because he
was heartily
ashamed, as was I, of the fact that Congress
had failed to
make any appropriation for an American
exhibit—one of